The Peace of Christ

THE PEACE WHICH CHRIST GIVES.

Jn.14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Intro. The inspiration from "Spiritual Energies in Daily Life" by Rufus M. Jones, professor of philosophy in Haverford College.

I. The peace of Christ contrasted with the peace of the world.

1. The world's peace we understand, it being sequential.

The reaction from some long great strain.

After a crisis, having watched by the bedside anxiously a long time, living in uncertainty.

Or, facing a seemingly inevitable reverse in business, or some great loss or failure.

The child lost in a city, upon finding its mother, settles down peacefully upon the shoulder of mama.

This peace we can all understand, it regularly follows certain actions, is sequential upon them.

II. 2. But there is a peace of a different order.

It passeth all understanding and transcends the experience of the world's peace.

It comes, not after the pain is releaved, not after the crisis is passed, not after the danger has disappeared; but in the midst of the pain, while the crisis is still on, or in the very midst of threatening danger.

The upsets of life do not banish this peace as they do the sequential kknd. Rather the upsets of life occasion this peace which becomes a garrison for the protection of the heart and mind.

We all experience upsets and frustrations in life. What a wonderful possession to have at such times- a peace that fortifies the heart and mind in the very thickest of troubles and sufferings! Yes, it is the peace which passeth understanding, the

peace of God, which comes to a soul bursting its way thru the finite and circumstantial, transcending time and space and allying itself with the infinite, and eternal.

II. Man has ever searched for a refuge against the dangers and ills of life.

1. Cave men and cliff dwellers. Primative builders tree-dwellers. Civilization's methods of defense.

2. There is another kind of a search for shelter. One against the storms of life. At some point we are all shelterless, and we all seek shelter, consciously ad instinctively. Sooner or later our enemies get thru our defenses and we find ourselves wrested. Example, myself who prided myself on my behavior, latter part of high school. But before I realized it, I had been undermined.

How to rebuild our refuge, how to find shelter is our problem.

Some try alcohol and drugs.

Some abandon themselves to the great instictive emotions.

These work, if at all, only for a brief space of time. They ultimately fail. They roll up new liabilities and make our last state worse than the first.

It usually takes our darkest hours to drive us to our real shelter. When all else fails then we begin to think of God. The prodigal. "God is our refuge and fottress, therefore will we not fear tho the earth be removed, tho the mountains be carried into the sea." God is a refuge that never fails, that is eternal.

III. What we want most of all.

1. Children's wants in the way of gifts for Xmas. They are easily satisfied. We grown-ups are not. We want everything and are not satisfied until we get it.

How hard man drives and pushes and fights to

get what he wants. And man usually wants a lot of things that are only for the moment, that cannot endure but for the day; things that soon loose their lustre and usefulness and that do not satisfy his desires.

Paul in Nero's dungeon got more kick out of life than has any man who has piled up millions or has ruled the world. Christ on Calvary possessed a peace of soul such as the world cannot give. The Peace of God!

We need to possess it and to exercise it daily for all of our needs, to allay our fears, to ease our sufferings, to triumph over our failure, and to conquor our last enemy- death.

Thank God for the peace which passeth human understanding, for the peace which Christ gives.